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sion after the operation. It is unnecessary to point out the advantages to be derived from its being done at a more early age, independent of those respecting the operation itself. PHIL. MAG.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

THE following directions, peculiarly useful in this part of the country, the seat of the linen manufacture, will it is hoped, obtain a general circulation through the medium of your Magazine. Yours, &c. A. B.

REMOVAL OF INK STAINS.

The stains of ink on cloth, paper or wood, may be removed by almost all acids, but those acids are to be preferred which are least likely to injure the texture of the stained substance. The muriatic acid, diluted with five or six times its weight of water may be applied to the spot, and after a minute or two may be washed off, repeating its application as often as may be found necessary. But the vegetable acids are attended with less risk, and are equally effectual. A solution of the oxalic, citric, or tartarous acids in water, may be applied to the most delicate fabrics without any danger of injuring them, and the same solutions discharge from paper written but not printed ink. Hence they may be employed in cleaning books, which have been defaced by writing on the margin, without injuring the text.

Iron stains. These may be occasioned either by ink stains, which on the application of soap are changed into iron stains; or by the direct contact of rusted iron. They may be removed by diluted muriatic acid, or by any of the vegetable acids already mentioned; when suffered to remain long in cloth, they become difficult to take out, because the iron by repeated moistening with water, and exposure to the air, acquires such an addition of oxygen, as renders it insoluble in acids. The spots, however, may be discharged by applying, first, a solution of an alkaline sulphuret, which may be well washed out of the cloth, and afterwards a liquid acid. The sulphuret in this case, extracts part of the oxygen from the iron, and renders it soluble in dilute acids.

Fruit and *wine stains* are best removed by a watery solution of the oxygenated muriatic acid; or by that of oxygenated muriate of pot-ash, or lime to which a little sulphuric acid has been added. The stained spot may be steeped in one of those solutions till it be discharged, but the solution can only be applied safely to *white* goods, because the uncombined oxygenized acid, discharges all printed and dyed colours. A convenient method of applying the oxygenized acid easily practicable by persons who have not the apparatus for saturating waters with the gas, is as follows. Put about a table spoonful of muriatic acid (spirit of salt) into a tea cup, and add to it, about a tea spoonful of powdered manganese. Then set this cup in a larger one filled with hot water, moisten the stained spot with water, and expose it to the fumes that arise from the tea cup. If the exposure be continued a sufficient length of time, the stain will disappear.

Stains on *silk*, may be removed by a watery solution of sulphurous acid, or by the fumes of burning sulphur.

Spots of *grease*, may be removed by a diluted solution of pure pot-ash, but this must be cautiously applied to prevent injury to the cloth. Stains of *white wax* which sometimes fall upon the cloaths, from wax candles, are removable by spirit of turpentine, or sulphuric æther. The marks of *white paint* may also be discharged by the last mentioned agents.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

IN answer to your correspondent the *Linendraper*, I have to inform him that I believe, as yet no colour has been found capable of withstanding the effects of the oxymuriated acid, except such as are liable to be extracted by the vegetable acids, or those made up with oil. The oxymuriated acid is merely the muriatic acid, commonly called the marine acid, or spirit of salt, with the addition of a redundant quantity of oxygen, which, when it comes in contact with the vegetable colours (for which oxygen has a strong affinity) discharges them on a slight appli cation of heat, but more slowly without it. Perhaps, therefore, the metallic *oxides* might be employed in marking linen subject to the oxymuriatic acid process, as containing a considerable portion of oxygen; but such colours can be effectually removed by the vegetable acids. Printers' ink is not affected by either.

To explain the quere of your correspondent C. D. it is to be remarked, that solar light has the power of producing a certain degree of combustion with the oxygen of the atmosphere, which is in this case disqualified for supporting further combustion; and of course, when a fire-place is exposed to the solar light, the inflammable matter it contains, must necessarily die away, unless it can be supplied with purer atmospheric air than that which is exposed to the action of the sun.

As we are on the subject of *gasses*, I would be glad to be informed through your magazine, whether the wind known under the title of the *Simoom*, has been chemically examined; and whether there be any more effectual mode of guarding against it, than what has been mentioned by Bruce.

I am yours, TYRO.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

LAIRESSE, in his Art of Painting, on the subject of appropriate symbols, deduces the crescent in the Turkish arms, from the circumstance of the establishment of the Roman court in Byzantium, by Constantine. He insinuates that it is the silver crescent, which distinguished the descendants of the senators chosen by Romulus, and has been assumed by the Ottomans as a mark of their honourable connection with the once mistress of the world.

I am apt to think, we might, on examination, be able to trace many of the Roman practices, by turning our attention to those of Constantinople.

The punishment, for instance, of the *bow-string*, may in all probability have been derived from a similar practice adopted in Rome, for the punishment of capital offenders.

We have it on the authority of Sallust, that Lentulus, Cethegus, and such of the partners in Catiline's conspiracy as were apprehended, were delivered over to the executioner, who, *strangled* them privately in prison, *Laqueo gulam fregere.*

We observe the same mode of punishment, and the same secrecy observed on the occasion, at this day, in Constantinople; can this be considered a fortuitous coincidence in their systems? I should be glad to have the opinion of some of your correspondents on the subject. X. Y.

July 12th, 1808.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF REMARKABLE PERSONS.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF WILLIAM KENNEDY.

THE privation of the sight is perhaps more easily endured and less prejudicial than that of most of the other senses. Poets, the foremost in renown, have been incapable of the perception of external objects. The two finest heroic poems, the Iliad and the Paradise Lost, are the immortal productions of the Blind. The eyes of Homer and of Milton "rolled in vain and found no dawn;" yet in the forceful expression of the latter, were their minds "inly irradiated, and they have sung of things invisible to mortal sight." The contemplation, however, of abstract ideas by the blind, which depend not on vision, is by no means extraordinary, nor of those objects that relate to the other senses; for the privation of one sense quickens the perception of the rest, while sensibility of intellect and strength of natural reason, appertain to the blind as well as to those who are blessed in the full perfection of the senses.

Our recollection of two extraordinary examples of this kind in science and philosophy is too recent to require to be impressed here, for all in this neighbourhood remember the lectures